

Miami Township Fire and EMS Operating Procedures



TITLE:

ICE RESCUE OR COLD WATER EVENT OPERATING PROCEDURE

#601

EFFECTIVE DATE:

03/18/2015

DATE AMENDED:

REVIEW DATE:

09/18/2015

APPROVED BY:

Chief Steve Kelly

This Operating Procedure shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until superseded.

PURPOSE

Establish an Operating Procedure (OP) for operations at an ice rescue or cold water event.

These are not rules, but Procedures to be used under the best of conditions with the optimum resources available. It is important to note that judgment and discretion must be used on all functions, activities and operations of the department.

SCOPE

This OP applies to any incident involving an ice rescue or cold water event including human and animal victims. The goal is to ensure rescuer safety while operating at the scene of an ice rescue event or cold water event.

DEFINITIONS

Ice Rescue Suit

Commercial suits designed for ice rescue operations.

Cold Water Event

Any water related event in which the water temperature is at or below 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Dive Team

Personnel trained specifically in search and rescue techniques under ice.

Primary Rescuer (PR)

An individual assigned to navigate ice in "Go" mode for a rescue.

Rapid Intervention Rescuer (RIR)

An individual assigned to stand-by in "Ready" mode to take over or assist PR as situation requires.

Rope Tenders

Individuals assigned to monitor rescue rope attached to rescuers.

10 Foot Rule

Whenever within 10 feet of water, personnel will wear a personal floatation device (PFD) and donning of turn-out gear will not be permitted.

PROCEDURE

A. Training

1. Ice rescue and cold water training will be necessary to assure personnel are prepared in the event of an emergency.



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2. Only personnel who have completed the required training relative to ice rescue/cold water operations and the associated tools and equipment with such operation shall be utilized.

B. Incident Command And Safety

1. Establish Incident Command (IC) and the incident location per the *Incident Command OP #301*.
2. The District 26 supervisor or other arriving command personnel shall assume IC upon their arrival.
3. Any dispatch for an ice rescue or cold water event will initially include Engine 26, Rescue 26, the District 26 supervisor, an ambulance and an additional engine.
4. Any incident involving an ice rescue or cold water event will require a second alarm.
 - a. If specialty, mutual-aid resources are needed, it will be up to the Incident Commander to make those request(s).
 - b. Mutual-aid resources with ice capabilities include:

Department	Resource	Ice Rescue
Anderson	15.5' & 22' Zodiac	Yes
Central Joint	Engines 10 & 11	Yes
Loveland Task Force One	Rescue 61	Yes
Union Township	Engines 48, 49, 51 & 52	Yes
Warren County Water/Dive Team		Yes

5. The Incident Commander shall obtain, at a minimum, the following information:
 - a. Witnesses
 - b. Number of victims
 - c. Establish contact with the victim(s)
 - d. Exact location
 - e. Reference point of entry
 - f. Color and condition of ice
 - g. Human, animal involved or both
 - Animal rescues shall be attempted with the use of a snare. The rescuer should refrain from direct contact with an animal unless absolutely necessary and only when considered safe to do so.
 - Limit risk for an animal rescue (if the animal is not rescued, citizens will attempt a rescue causing us to react to the secondary human rescue).
 - h. Rescue or recovery



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6. In the event an ice rescue incident occurs during night hours, adverse weather conditions, distance or any situation where the Incident Commander cannot visibly monitor the incident a second level of command may be initiated.
7. Safety of responders is paramount:
 - a. All personnel operating within 10 feet of shore must abide by the 10 Foot Rule.
 - b. Consider an additional EMS unit as needed.

C. Operations

1. Under no circumstances will operations be initiated without the presence of qualified personnel and/or adequate resources. Freelancing will not be tolerated.
2. Adequate numbers of trained personnel shall be available prior to attempting any ice rescue operation. These individuals include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Incident Commander
 - b. Primary Rescuer
 - c. Rapid Intervention Rescuer (the Incident Commander will make the determination if, when and how the RIR will relieve or assist the PR(s)).
 - d. Rope Tenders
 - e. Dive Team
3. Personnel responding to an ice rescue or cold water event shall be familiar with the hand signals associated with an ice rescue or cold water event.
 - a. Pull – one hand placed on top of head.
 - b. Stop – one hand raised with palm faced out.
 - c. Need Help – one hand raised and waved back and forth.
4. An ice rescue or cold water event requires personnel to be assigned in groups of not less than two.
5. An early attempt shall take place to establish verbal contact with victim.
6. If the victim can assist with their own rescue, deploy a rope throw bag.
7. The PR and RIR shall don an Ice Rescue suit prior to leaving quarters.
 - a. At no time shall gear be donned while vehicle is enroute.
8. Secondary and additional personnel responding to an ice rescue or cold water incident shall not don their turn-out gear prior to responding.
9. Whenever conditions require the use of a boat or Rapid Deployment Craft (RDC) those resources shall be ready for immediate deployment.
 - a. The utilization of Boat shall be done in accordance with the *Water Rescue Operating Procedure #602*.



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D. EMS Treatment

1. Care and treatment of patients shall be done in accordance with MTF&EMS *Hypothermia Protocol #M109*.

E. Deployment

1. Apparatus and personnel deployment shall be done in accordance with the *Staffing Operating Procedure #402*.

F. Post Incident Procedures

1. Soiled ice rescue suits, PFDs and other PPE shall be decontaminated and cleaned.
2. Ice rescue suits and PFDs shall be hung dried prior to being returned to service.